

ARGENTINE CATTLE RAISING

Favorable Conditions Contribute to Make the Country an Ideal One for This Purpose.

BY HERBERT W. MUMFORD,
University of Illinois.

At the present time Argentina exports more beef to the United Kingdom of Great Britain than does the United States. Since the cattle business is conducted on such an extensive scale herding of large droves together is a common practice.

This minimizes the factor of labor. It is estimated that under average conditions one man will care for a thousand head of cattle.

The best bred and best fattened cattle go to the packing house, or "frigorificos" for chilled and frozen export beef. The remainder of the cattle product is used either for local consumption or to supply the extract, canned beef and jerked beef establishments.

The cattle used for extract, canned beef and jerked beef are half-fattened unimproved grade which are purchased at a very moderate cost. The best steers used for export command \$40 to \$50 of American money—this price on the "estancias" or ranches.

Of course there is a considerable number of live cattle exported to nearby countries.

Alfalfa is undoubtedly the most important factor in beef production in Argentina. It is estimated that something over nine million acres are now set in alfalfa, and it takes from one to two acres of this to carry a mature steer or cow throughout the year.

In some sections there is a limited amount of hay feeding in the winter of from forty-five to sixty days. This, in most cases, however, is not necessary, but is usually done to get cattle fattened at periods when the market is not glutted.

In many instances the annual income from alfalfa used for beef production ranges from \$5 to \$8 per acre. It should be understood that the alfalfa is pastured off; only the surplus is cut for hay.

Land values vary from less than \$1 to upward of \$70 per acre, prices varying with the location and fertility of the soil.

Lands adapted to alfalfa growing and located a considerable distance from railways or other transportation facilities may be purchased at from \$15 to \$25 per acre.

Rainfall and climate are also important factors in determining the value of land. The rents are usually figured on a basis of from \$5 to \$12 per acre on the valuation.

On the more fertile, better developed lands there is a tendency to supplant cattle raising with agriculture, in which wheat, corn and linseed are the principal crops. Considerable difficulty is experienced, however, in getting sufficient labor to carry on agricultural operations intelligently.

It cannot be said that cattle raising is expanding at the present time. The tendency is and has been to improve the quality of the product rather than increase the quantity.

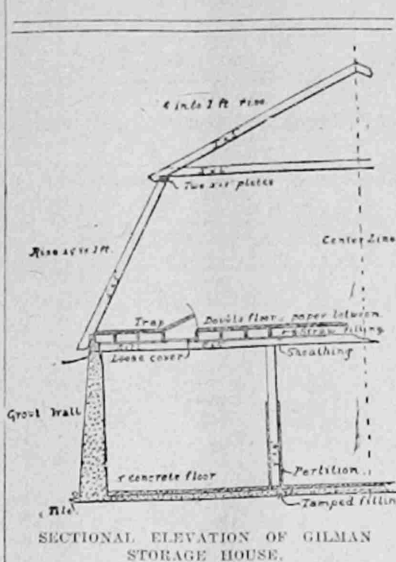
There is abundant opportunity, however, for the increase of the quantity, providing better prices are secured. To this end Argentine ranchmen periodically agitate the desirability of restoring the live cattle trade to British ports, a trade which was discontinued a few years since because of the danger of introducing foot and mouth disease. It is not likely that England will see her way clear to again open her ports to live cattle from the Argentine.

HOG RAISING DOWN SOUTH

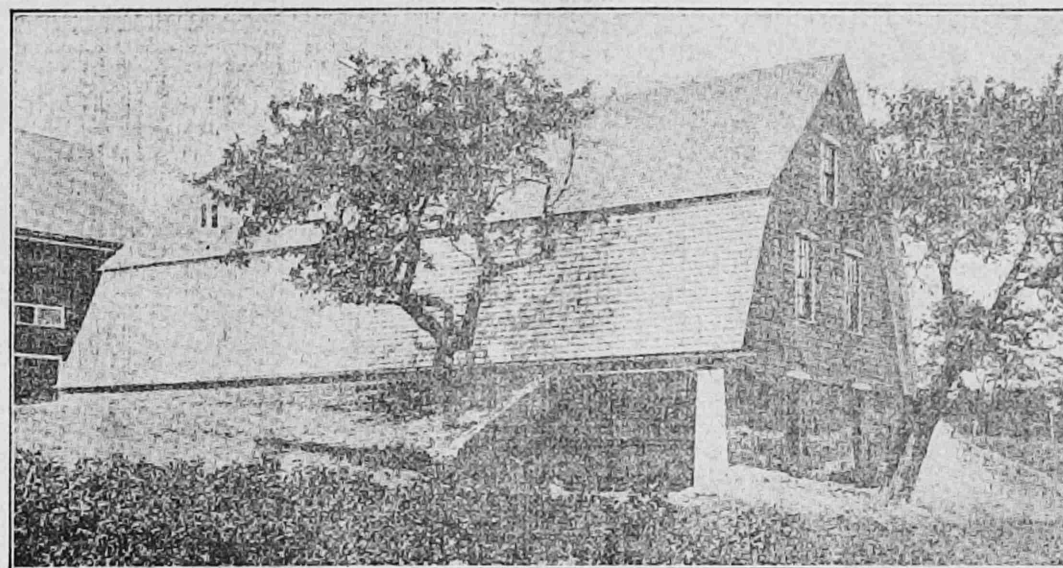
We often wonder why the southern folks depend on the west for their bacon. They can raise hogs right at home and come pretty near making as good pork as the west. Corn and cow peas will make a hog fatten from pig time to the pork barrel, and these crops grow to perfection in the south. We have seen the finest of cow peas down there—in fact the south is the home of the cow pea—and they raise 60 to 100 bushels of corn whenever they get down to business. We have before us a letter from a Georgia farmer who says he raised 110 bushels of corn per acre last year, and sends a photograph of his corn field. It looks like a Kansas corn field.

A good way to give the tobacco trust a blow in the short ribs would be to cut out tobacco for a few years and go in for hogs. They talk about cotton as a money crop down south. Of course it is, but it is no better than hogs; they are as good as ready money any time. The southern farmer is learning the new agricultural game very fast, but he is yet a bit slow on the pork question. He will wake up one of these days, and when he begins to turn into pork his rap, alfalfa,

soja beans, corn, peanuts, vetch, cow peas and things of that kind which grow abundantly in that gracious climate he will keep millions of money at home which is now going elsewhere to buy his bacon.



PRACTICAL AND INEXPENSIVE POTATO STORAGE HOUSE



Owned by Hon. A. W. Gilman, Foxcroft, Me. This house and plan are recommended to any who intend to grow potatoes for a series of years.

EASY TO CARE FOR BEES

THE PROFITS RESULTING TO THE FRUIT GROWER MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.

E. R. ROOT,
Editor Gleanings in Bee Culture.

It has been thoroughly demonstrated that bees play an important part in pollinating fruit blossoms, and the fruit grower, if no bees are kept within a half-mile of his place, ought to keep a few himself.

When properly handled, bees are usually tractable. As a general thing they will mind their own business much better than poultry or other farm stock when left to themselves.

The fruit grower might be willing to keep a few bees—yes, he would be very glad to do so if he could place a few colonies in his orchard without their having to "everlastingly swarm." This difficulty may be very largely overcome.

Bees swarm primarily because of a lack of room. If, instead of using a single hive, we use one of double capacity, one on top of the other, the swarming tendency will be very materially curtailed.

I therefore advise the farmer and fruit grower to use hives of large size, or else use hives of ordinary size, one piled on top of the other. The bees and queen should be given unlimited room.

It is assumed that the farmer fruit-grower does not care for honey in sections. For his own family the chunk honey stored away in large stone crocks will suit his purpose quite as

well as that stored in the small boxes seen in the groceries.

For that reason the honey should be stored in regular frames or "trucks," as some call them, that hold the comb. It may then be taken off and stored in the crocks.

At the beginning of the season one story of a langstroth hive will be enough. Just before fruit bloom opens up another story should be added, containing empty combs, or frames of comb foundation. As the season advances another story should be added.

In the meantime a large unobstructed entrance should be provided at the bottom. If the bees cluster out in front they will be almost sure to swarm; so at all times there should be enough room provided so they can be kept inside of the hive and at work.

Colonies so manipulated may store for the fruit-grower, from fruit bloom and clover, anywhere from 50 to 200 pounds of the honey, which will be worth, at the very lowest calculation, in the form of chunk honey at the local groceries, not less than 10 cents per pound.

It goes to show, then, that in a fair season our fruit-grower farmer, to say nothing of the actual benefit of the bees in scattering pollen, may get anywhere from \$5 to \$20 per hive.

Some colonies handled in the manner explained may swarm, but as a general thing there will not be over 5 per cent of such swarms.

NOTES ON SHEEP RAISING

Never mate a big ram with a small ewe. Best to breed animals of the same type.

If your ewes are poor at breeding time they will be greatly handicapped. Plenty of good feed to push the youngsters for market.

Oil meal will often prevent indigestion and keep the young sheep on edge. Don't guess at the breeding time. Red paint on the ram's belly will mark the ewes so you can tell when they will drop their lambs.

Keep the ram by himself in daytime and turn him with a few ewes at night. After all corn is the great fattener for sheep as for other animals, but fed alone will cause trouble.

Last winter we saw great flocks of sheep in Nebraska that had been turned into the cornfields to do their own husking, and they were tramping about half the grain into the mud. That did not pay.

The big sheep ranges of the west are being broken up and our daily mutton will have to come from the small farm flocks.

Shoot every strange dog that comes onto the place.

Any flock of over fifty sheep ought to have a Collie to look after them.

OLD STRAWBERRY BEDS

How They Should Be Treated and Cleaned When Overrun and Choked With Weeds.

BY C. H. DRAKE.

We always have to fight the weeds in strawberry beds. They hinder much less in a season of abundant rainfall than in a dry one, and do special damage when fertility is lacking in the soil. So, if one wishes to prolong the usefulness of the old bed another year it may be done, providing it is not too old or has not become sodded thickly over. Wire grass is the worst enemy of the strawberry as the years advance, for the roots take complete possession of the soil. Other weeds, like daisies, yarrow, dandelion, etc., may be quite easily coped with.

Rather than do without any of this delicious fruit next year the old bed had better be retained unless it is beyond all hope of production. If it is not closely mown after fruiting let this be done right away, drying, shaking and gathering the weeds, grass, etc. It may be burned over, but if near the barn this is impractical. It is a good plan to take off as much of the old tops as possible in order to stimulate new growth.

After raking it may be scarified with a harrow quite thoroughly. This will break the surface, letting in air and opening ways for the strength of a manure top dressing to enter.

Now let an even coat of well-rotted stable manure be applied, thick enough to fertilize without shutting out the air. Rains coming on will fertilize the ground, so that much larger crops will be grown by the plants than would be possible without it.

The crown of the plant is but a storage of material with which the plant will push the next season's growth of

fruit. How can the plants grow good crowns with only an overdrawn supply of fertilizer beneath them? The top dressing will serve also to protect the plants during the winter. Thus treated one is sure of a much larger crop of strawberries next year than if the bed were plowed up and reset in August or September. Of course if the plants have been set too long, so that the bed is very poorly this year, not even berries can be expected next year, even with the treatment above recommended.

For the bed to be set next spring it is well to begin preparations now, or as soon as land and manure are available. If the piece is now in sod, the sooner manure is applied the better. It will tend to rot the sod and help its decay after fall plowing. The pile of coarse manure that lies outside the stable door may be evenly spread on the sod, and the rains will help it to benefit the land.

Plowing should not be deep, else the manure and sward will be placed too deep for the strawberry roots to reach them. Let the land be harrowed down soon after plowing, and then it is ready for a coat of ashes as they may be spared.

Better purchase a few bushels of ashes than leave part of the ground unfertilized on the surface. It pays to give this fruit a good chance, as it not only enriches the table for several weeks when other fruits are scarce, but is a ready seller at good prices. For this reason, of course, one should not put a very small bed, which would but sparingly supply the table and afford none for the market.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The great scarcity of skilled farm labor during the last few years has forced some farmers to take on undesirable men, many of whom are not worth much and whose city habits unfit them for country life. But I maintain that the great body of American farm laborers are more intelligent, more reliable and better farmers than those of any other country in the world. And they are getting better every year.

Most men work on the farm because they like it, and a man who loves animals and rejoices in the development of great crops of growing things cannot at heart be a very lazy or a very bad man. The other kind are not to be considered as real farm hired men.

The reason some farmers cannot afford to keep a hired man is because they do not know how to manage their business to make it pay. I have seen farmers with only twenty acres who kept two hired men all the season and one the year around. Then I have seen men who owned 100 acres who could not afford to keep one. It's all in knowing how to make the soil give up every dollar of profit there is in it.

It's a poor farmer who cannot pay a man \$30 a month and make a dollar a day profit from his work. Some of them make three and four times as much.

Some farmers act upon the principle that a hired man ought to take the place of most of the machinery necessary on the farm. He owns a plow or two, perhaps, and a corn cultivator, but the hired man is expected to spread the manure, husk the corn, load the hay single-handed and alone, and do a lot of other work that a machine could do five times as fast and much better. A good farmer and one hired man with the help of a manure spreader, a seeder, gang plow and cultivator, a hay loader, corn cutter, a low wagon, a cream separator and a little ten-horse power gasoline engine can turn out more work than five men can without it. In these times of labor famine the farm and buildings should be rigged out with every possible device to save hand labor. And it is not necessary to buy it all. A handy man with \$30 worth of tools and a workshop can make any number of things that will save time and muscle, and do it on stormy days, too.

A FINE CHICK SHELTER

This picture represents a handy shelter for little chicks in time of storm or sunshine.

Tar paper tacked over it, extending down to the lower part of the frame.



about four inches from the ground, will keep the chicks dry.

They will soon learn to use this shelter if a little feed is put under it at first.

GRASS FED BEEF A MENACE

Professor Herbert W. Mumford, who spent months of last year investigating cattle conditions in Argentina, S. A., says that very fine herds of cattle are produced in Argentina without a mouthful of grain. These cattle are fed simply grass and alfalfa and were never in a stable.

He saw breeding cattle in extra fine flesh on alfalfa pasture, one cow in particular showing actual rolls of fat on her rump and yet she had never tasted anything else but alfalfa from her birth.

Grass fed mutton has gone from Argentina to London market too fast to sell. On one ranch of 100,000 acres there are 18,000 cattle, 10,000 sheep and 2,000 horses—all market fat without a pound of grain. Most of the cattle country is flat and level and the climate is ideal for growing, as blizzards and severe weather are unknown.

Argentina is a real competitor of the United States and has during the past three years shipped considerable more beef to Great Britain than has our own country. The beef can be delivered in London from Argentina as cheaply as it can from Chicago.

The highest degree of physical development and health of cattle can be produced and maintained only by an abundance of exercise, pure air and sunshine.

DIVERSIFY FARM PRODUCTS

Sure Profits Are for the Farmer Who Has a Variety of Things for Sale.

By H. H. SHEPARD.

General farming is the most interesting and profitable, as well as the safest of all farming. If any one crop is short or a failure there are others to fall back upon for an income. The farmer who grows a variety of products has wide experience and his mind becomes broadened. New things are continually presenting new and valuable ideas.

The general farmer, from the nature of the case, does grow a variety of products, but the average farmer does not grow as many kinds of things as are possible and profitable on the general farm. There should be a variety of animals kept, commensurate with the size of the place and other modifying conditions. And keeping a variety of farm animals necessitates the growing of a great variety of cultivated plants.

For healthy growth and profitable gains domestic animals must be fed several different kinds of feed in order to supply them with the different elements essential for normal growth and development. In summer with pasture this is easy. But there should also be things grown so that the animals can have a change and variety of feeds during the entire winter season when forage crops are dead. It is the cry of nearly all farmers that they make no money on hogs and dairy cows in winter because they have to buy expensive feeds to supplement the narrow ration of home-grown feeds. This can be corrected and a great saving made by growing pumpkins, beets, mangels and other succulent crops that can be kept green a part or all of the winter. Cabbage, of course, is excellent and will fill a wide gap in feeds, but there are many other things that can be grown and kept in a green state without serious loss of time or soil space. Rape may be sown in the corn at the last cultivation and serve for green pasture till the last of the calendar year. The same is true of rye, which will afford green pasture all through the winter.

Poultry and pigs thrive on the farm under a variety of crops are grown. They are able to glean and turn into good money almost every particle of waste grain and fruits. They pick up scores of dollars' worth of waste feeds in the wheat, oats and pea stubble and in the orchard in the summer and fall. Our chickens always increase in egg yield when the field peas are harvested. The same is true when apple begin to ripen and fall. Nothing is wasted.

NUBBINS OF FARM NEWS

Mrs. Howie of Elk Grove, Wis., is assisting Professor Hovstad of North Dakota Agricultural college. She is among those foremost in cow culture and is lecturing on the care of cows. Her prescription is very simple: "Good common-sense principles, soap, fresh water and kindness."

Thomas and Francis Hauck, two miners, who keep a garden at Delta Idaho, experimented in grafting a scion of a 4-year-old apple tree into a service berry tree body, and were repaid by having the limb blossom and bear two fine yellow apples. The tree from which the scion was cut has never bloomed.

Kansas has two forestry stations each of which has a considerable number of young trees at the disposal of those who want them. The only cost is the expressage and a guaranty that the receiver will care for them for a certain number of years.

Had United States Senator William B. Allison of Iowa, who died recently, lived to complete his term in 1909, he would have served longer than any other member, having served in the United States senate continuously since 1873.

The fruit growers of Victoria have long believed that the small garden for the householder in the suburbs is a breeding ground for codling moths, scale and other diseases of the orchard. Officers of the Department of Agriculture are to make house-to-house visits in all cities and towns, and wherever the fruit trees growing in back yards or gardens are found to be diseased the owners will be instructed to eradicate the disease.

CARE IN TRAINING THE COLT

Begin Early and Always Remember That Kind Firmness Will Give Best Results.

BY JAMES M. BELL,
Virginia.

During the first two weeks of handling a green colt be careful never to excite him by loud talking, cracking of whips or by throwing his harness on him.

Cool him all the time. Then when he gets used to you make him understand by firmness what you want him to do is right. He will soon learn.

Never have recourse to violence if it can be helped. Colts are naturally timid and therefore easily alarmed. Traces rubbing against their legs, singletrees hanging against their backs when holding back a wagon when going downhill, getting a trace between their legs and many other things of the sort frighten them into kicking or running.

In driving a colt to light harness never let him to a post when he is hitched to a vehicle. It is best to have a heavy halter on him that you can slip off when you get ready to hitch him up again, or you can leave the halter on him when putting his harness on or tying the rein in one of the turnouts of the saddle.

All colts are inclined to gall easily when the harness presses on them, and this makes the youngster irritable. Carbolic vaseline will heal these raw places.

Two weeks of gentle and judicious handling will generally get a colt quiet enough to begin to teach him that all of life is not play.

The horse does not live that will not run away if he is frightened enough. You never can tell when that will be, so better never leave him standing unhitched.

Before engaging the hired man send him out with a team for a day or two and watch his actions. If he is rough and cruel to horses better not keep him.

The demand for mules in the south is constantly increasing and prices are steadily rising.

New collars should be examined every day until they are found to fit the horse's neck perfectly. A fat horse often shrinks in the first few days' work sufficiently to make the collar fit him badly and produce serious injury.

A colt's mouth can easily be ruined by a careless man in the first week of breaking. The greatest care should be observed in using the proper bits. Never jerk a horse, young or old.

Always hitch up a young colt with a rapid walker. Fast walking is, like other gaits, acquired.

It would be well if all colts could be halter broken by weaning time and used to harness, saddle and bridle as yearlings. They will soon learn driving by being used only enough to render them gentle.

Then as 3-year-olds, when they are expected to help earn their living on the farm, there will be none of the rough style of breaking them in with the inevitable fever-sore mouth, galled shoulders, nervous kickers and runaways.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DAIRYMEN

The breeding of a bull whose dam and granddam were great producers to a cow known to be a producer and with a line ancestry is pretty sure to produce a profit maker.

An air shaft can be built in the dairy barn at very little cost, that will ventilate the stable perfectly and do away with the dampness and heavy air so noticeable on winter mornings. One man installed two ventilators which ran from near the floor to well above the roof for \$30.

Cows milked by the calf from year to year go back in their milk-producing capacity instead of improving it. A pure-bred cow which has produced a calf by a mongrel bull, or even a cow bred of another breed, is considered by many careful breeders to have suffered great deterioration in her ability to thereafter produce high-class progeny.

Dairying will double the value of your land in a short time. Isn't it worth while?

Common soap should never be used on the milk utensils.

KEEP COWS OUT OF PONDS

Many men who think they are good farmers allow their cows to drink all summer from any old pond that happens to contain enough water.

No matter how filthy it is, or how warm or contaminated by vegetable growth or droppings from the animals themselves, so long as it is water.

A greater error never was made. You cannot get good milk or butter from dirty pond water.

The cow is a wonderful milking machine and she often transforms some pretty poor stuff into milk, but if she is given nothing but dirty, stagnant pond water all her powers of alchemy cannot turn it into a fluid fit for children to drink.

There is one way, however, in which pond water may be used to advantage, but it is not to allow animals to go into it or drink from it directly.

A pond on the Oklahoma station farm holds a million gallons and supplies 100 head each of cattle and hogs. It drains a large area which is on a hill to the barns and feed lots. This is difficult.

As it runs from the faucet it is as clear as the average well water and it tastes good.

The cost of building the pond and of piping the water to about one-third of a mile was about \$100. Barring usual accidents it should cost nothing for repairs and it does not cost a cent to operate it.

There are many localities where the ground is more or less hilly where this system of supplying water could very easily be adopted without great cost.

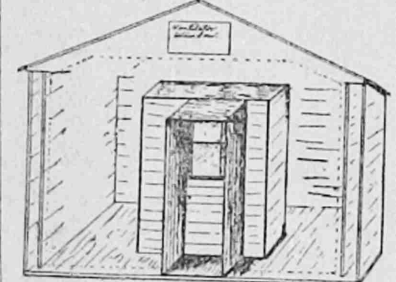
COLD STORAGE IN THE ICEHOUSE

The storeroom described in the drawing may be added to any icehouse already built.

The storeroom should be four to six feet square, just large enough to accommodate the amount of milk and butter produced on the farm.

The room should be provided with a ventilator at the top about one foot square and two feet above the top of the room.

The doors leading to the room should be on the north side of the building. Each door should have a sash at the top. The sketch shows only the inside.



door. The room should be of matched boards and the top covered with tin. The floor should be of concrete.

The house proper is built with double walls, the space being filled with sawdust.

The dotted lines in the drawing show the outline of ice when house is filled. The space between the ice and the wall, eight inches, should be packed with sawdust.

The temperature will keep at about 25 or 30 degrees during the summer, and during the winter if the sawdust is piled upon and around the room it makes a fine place to store a few select vegetables or fruit.

A neighbor, a kindly man who has made a great success of farming, is nearly all its branches, never misses an opportunity to plant trees in every nook and corner of his farm. He plants all kinds and says that a tree, in proportion to the expense, is the most profitable crop he can raise. In many of the corners of the fences there stand fine apple trees that bear as well as any in the main orchard, while along the line fence which was once given over to scrub brush there are twenty-three cherry trees that yield abundantly.

Of course, the neighbor boys got some of the fruit, but my neighbor seems to be glad of it. He said once when I spoke to him about it: "Formerly this land was all wasted. Now if we get a bushel of cherries occasionally we are that much ahead. And besides," he added, "I guess the Lord will provide enough to go around and give the boys their share, too."—Editor.

DAIRY FACTS AND FIGURES

There are approximately 1,250,000 dairy cows in Wisconsin, the products from which yield, as a conservative estimate, an annual income of over \$50,000,000.

An evaporated milk plant to cost \$150,000 is soon to be built in North Yakima, Wash.

The man with a fine herd of dairy cows didn't know there was a panic last year.

Certified milk sells in all large cities for about twice the price of other milk. It is absolutely clean, no impurities being allowed to get into the milk. A layer of fine cheesecloth is stretched over the milk pail, a layer of absorbent cotton is placed upon that, then another piece of cheesecloth. There is no sediment in the bottom of the milk vessels of milk treated in this way. It's not expensive, either.

Milking is not woman's work, but when it comes to attending to the milk and butter making she can beat man every time.

A herd of the smallest cattle in the world, a Kerry-Dexter-bred, imported all the way from southwestern Ireland, was one of the most interesting features of the National Dairy Show at Chicago.

Professor E. B. Voorhees has figured it out that a single well-fed cow will produce in a year 167 pounds of nitrogen, 87 pounds of phosphoric acid and about \$7 pounds of potash. At this rate it is easy to see why dairy cows are such a powerful factor in increasing the fertility of the farm, when the manure is properly cared for.

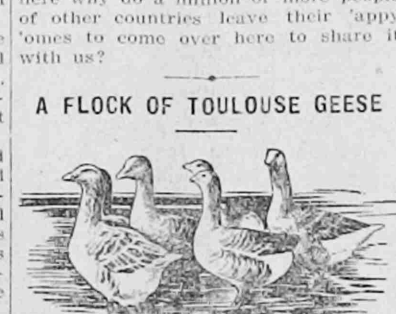
A good many good poultrymen now feed their little chicks by providing hoppers which are filled with cracked corn and wheat. The chicks are allowed to help themselves to this, and thrive very nicely without further trouble. Water and grit are furnished, of course, and often a little hopper is filled with beer scraps, but wet feed is not used at all.

WASTED SYMPATHY

Some Englishmen are constantly calling attention to the dreadful state of agriculture in America and pointing to the American farmer as a horrible example of the oppressed and unhappy. It may be that the low state of English agriculture and the people who dig a scant existence out of the soil over there breed a bit of bitterness in the criticism of our farmers over here. Well, we are not so badly off, after all. Since 1900 the number of farms in America operated by their owners increased from 2,934,306 to 5,712,408. The farm mortgages have rapidly decreased, and our farm wealth has increased by billions—figures actually too large to be grasped. The state of our farmers is better than ever before and far better than that of farmers in any other country in the world.

English sympathy for our farmers is entirely wasted. If we are so wretched here why do a million or more people of other countries leave their 'happy homes' to come over here to share it with us?

A FLOCK OF TOULOUSE GEES



Owned by F. A. Strohschein, West Bloomfield, Wis. This is an excellent breed for average farm conditions.

The manure product from a single cow, according to figures of the Department of Agriculture, ranges in value from \$30 to \$40 per year.